

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gov. Evers, PSC Announce Internet for All Wisconsin Listening Tour

Registration Now Open for Nine In-Person, Two Virtual Meetings

MADISON – Gov. Evers, together with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), announced today the statewide Internet for All Wisconsin Listening Tour, a series of nine in-person and two virtual interactive meetings to help develop the state's five-year action plan to deploy high-speed internet and improve internet affordability and adoption.



Community leaders and all interested members of the public are welcome to attend this free event. Prospective attendees are advised to visit the <u>event</u> website for additional event information as it becomes available.

Wisconsin could expect an allocation of \$800 million to \$1.1 billion to implement the state's five-year action plan for broadband and approximately \$25 million to implement the state's Digital Equity Plan under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's 'Internet for All' programs. In December 2022, Gov. Tony Evers and the PSC announced the nearly \$6 million federal investment for the state to develop these plans by gathering local input from Wisconsinites in broadband access and digital inclusion activities.

"With nearly everything about our economy, our workforce and our way of life depending on access to high-speed internet, it's important for folks across the state to come together and share their experience and ideas to bridge Wisconsin's digital divide," said Gov. Evers. "We have come a long way to get more Wisconsinites connected than ever before with over 390,000 homes and businesses connected to new or improved internet, but there's still more work to do. As we invest in Wisconsin's infrastructure and future, the conversations during this Listening Tour will help guide this important work to ensure all can access affordable, reliable, high-speed internet."

"Public participation is critical to the Commission's broadband access and digital equity efforts, so I'm excited for the Commission to hit the road and hear from community members across Wisconsin as we develop the state's five-year action plan," said Chairperson Rebecca Cameron Valcq. "I look forward to the robust dialogue and community engagement during the statewide Listening Tour."

The Internet for All Wisconsin Listening Tour is hosted by the PSC's Wisconsin Broadband Office, in partnership with Wisconsin's nine regional economic development organizations. If someone is unable to attend an in-person or virtual meeting, they may still submit public comment here.

Event details are as follows:

Monday, May 8 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM UW-Stout Memorial Student Center (302 $10^{\rm th}$ Ave E, Menomonie, WI 54751) In partnership with Momentum West

Tuesday, May 9 | 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Seven Winds Casino Lodge & Event Center (13767 W County Road B, Hayward, WI 54843) In partnership with Visions Northwest

Tuesday, May 9 | 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Pines Event Center (5840 Forest Ln, Rhinelander, WI 54501)

In partnership with Grow North

Tuesday, May 9 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Milwaukee 7 Office (301 W Wisconsin Ave, Ste 220, Milwaukee, WI 53203)

In partnership with Milwaukee 7

Monday, May 15 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

La Crosse Public Library Auditorium (800 Main St, La Crosse, WI 54601)

In partnership with 7 Rivers Alliance

Friday, May 19 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Fox Valley Technical College – Appleton Campus (1825 N Bluemound Dr, Appleton, WI 54912)

In partnership with New North

Monday, May 22 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Virtual meeting on zoom

Tuesday, May 23 | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Madison College Truax Gateway/Welcome Center (1701 Wright St., Madison, WI 53704)

In partnership with Madison Region Economic Partnership

Tuesday, May 23 | 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Platteville Public Library (225 W Main St, Platteville, WI 53818)

In partnership with Prosperity Southwest

Thursday, June 1 | 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Mid-State Technical College – Wisconsin Rapids Campus (502 32 nd St N, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

54494)

In partnership with Centergy

Tuesday, June 6, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Virtual meeting on zoom

The <u>Internet for All Wisconsin Listening Tour website</u> will be regularly updated as more information becomes available for the upcoming meetings.

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